



## CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Rhode Islanders are very fortunate to have access to one of the strongest networks of public libraries in the country.

In large measure libraries have been able to develop collections and services and share their resources statewide through the Cooperating Libraries Automated Network because of the Grant-in-Aid program administered by the Office of Library & Information Services.

Section 29-6-2 of the Rhode Island General Laws requires state funding for public libraries equal to 25% of each community's appropriation for services. It is important to note that to receive library aid no municipality can appropriate less for its library than it did in the preceding year. This provision of the law acts as a highly effective incentive to encourage municipal support for libraries even during difficult financial times.

In Cranston we have used out state aid to expand online access to health, business and consumer information databases, we have been able to conduct technology training for our staff, and we have built one of the most comprehensive collections of videos and other audio visual formats in the state.



The Office of Library & Information Services is an effective advocate for municipal support of library services and for statewide resource sharing among public, academic, school and special libraries. These efforts help ensure equal access to library service for all Rhode Islanders.

Cordially,



David W. Macksam

**Director**